O P ket No.: 20447 US2 (C38435/111673)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Jagath L. KADURUGAMUWA *et al.*

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Serial No.: 09/370,860

Examiner: Robert A. Zeman

Filed: August 9, 1999

Art Unit: 1645

For:

NOVEL VACCINES AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS USING MEMBRANE VESICLES OF MICROORGANISMS, AND

METHODS FOR PREPARING SAME

New York, New York September 20, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Box CPA Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment together with the CPA filed concurrently herewith are presented in view of a telephonic Examiner's Interview conducted on September 19, 2001 between the Examiner and the undersigned. The following amendments are presented in an effort to bring the claims in condition for allowance based on the discussion with the Examiner.

The shortened statutory period for response to the Office Action of March 23, 2001 expired on June 23, 2001. A three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action is hereby requested. With this extension, the due date for reply to the Office Action will be CEVEN/2001 STEFFERM 00000140 09370860

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